

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02511 211506Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SAJ-01 /059 W

----- 110171

R 211415Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9388

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: LEFTIST PARTIES REJECT MIETTUNEN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

REF: HELSINKI 2485

1. BOTH THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ON NOV 20 REJECTED THE PROPOSAL FOR A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT FORMATEUR MARTTI MIETTUNEN HAD SUBMITTED TO THEM AND THE THREE CENTRIST PARTIES ON NOV 18. CENTRIST PARTIES ACCEPTED PROGRAM.

2. COMMUNIST REJECTION WAS EXPECTED AND, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT COMPLETELY RULE OUT THEIR EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN A CENTER-LEFT POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN WHATEVER FURTHER ATTEMPT AT FORMING A GOVERNMENT WILL BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REJECTION WAS MUCH STIFFER THAN EXPECTED. THEY SAID PROGRAM PROPOSAL NOT SATISFACTORY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02511 211506Z

BASIS FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT TOO VAGUE

AND DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR WISHES CONCERNING QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC POLICY, ANTI-CYCLICAL POLICY, AND ASSURING EMPLOYMENT. THEY WERE ALSO UNHAPPY WITH POINTS DEALING WITH SHORTENING WORK HOURS, PENSIONS, FAMILY POLICY, CHANGING BALANCE IN TAXATION FROM WAGE-EARNERS TO CAPITAL AND BUSINESS SOURCES. FOREST TAXATION, AND CONSTITUTIONAL PARLIAMENTARY RIGHTS FOR ONE-SIXTH MINORITY TO BLOCK LEGISLATION. QUITE A LIST OF COMPLAINTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE ACTUALLY DECIDED TO STAY OUT OF GOVERNMENT FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, OR WHETHER THEY ARE JUST SAYING THAT THIS IS THE PRICE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE NOT CLOSED DOOR ON FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION, BUT HAVE NOT MADE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON BASIS FOR FURTHER TALKS OR STEPS.

4. CENTRIST PARTIES (CENTER, SWEDISH, AND LIBERAL) ALL ACCEPTED MIETTUNEN PROGRAM, BUT BOTH THE CENTER AND SWEDISH PARTIES STATED THAT SOME POINTS IN PROGRAM COULD STAND SOME FURTHER CLARIFICATION. ONE THING THAT HAS BECOME CLEAR IS THAT THE CENTRIST PARTIES NOT ONLY CAN REACH AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES, BUT INTEND TO PROCEED AS A GROUP AND STILL CONSIDER THEMSELVES ENTITLED TO THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

5. MIETTUNE REPORTS TODAY, NOVEMBER 21, TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN ON HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A MAJORITY FIVE-PARTY GOVERNMENT -- WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAVE GONE NOWHERE. IT IS UP TO KEKKONEN TO DECIDE ON THE NEXT STEP. HE COULD THEORETICALLY ASK MIETTUNEN TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO FORM A FOUR-PARTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, BUT, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REACTION TO THIS PROGRAM PROPOSAL, IT IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THIS WOULD MAKE ANY SENSE.

6. IT WOULD SEEM THAT KEKKONEN NOW HAS THREE MAIN CHOICES: A) GIVE THE TASK OF TRYING TO FORM A FOUR-PARTY GOVERNMENT TO SOMEONE ELSE -- PERHAPS FIRST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 02511 211506Z

OFFERING IT TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS; B) ASK MIETTUNEN OR SOMEONE ELSE FROM CENTRIST PARTIES TO FORM A CENTRIST THREE-PARTY MINORITY GOVERNMENT; OR C) "POLITICIZE" PRESENT LIINAMAA EXPERTS GOVERNMENT, AS HE WARNED MIGHT HAPPEN, BY POSSIBLY CHANGING SIX-EIGHT OF THE LEAST POLITICAL MINISTERS FOR REPRESENTATIVES IDENTIFIED WITH THE CENTRIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. THE OTHER POSSIBILITY, THAT OF

FORMING A NON-SOCIALIST MAJORITY GOVERNMENT MADE
UP OF THE THREE CENTRIST PARTIES, THE CONSERVATIVES,
AND THE CHRISTIANS (TOGETHER 102 SEATS OUT OF 200)
IS NOT MENTIONED SERIOUSLY. KEKKONEN IS ASSUMED TO BE
DEAD SET AGAINST IT BECAUSE IT WOULD TEND TO POLARIZE
FINNISH POLITICAL LIFE EVEN MORE INTO LEFT AND RIGHT.
EVERYONE IS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT KEKKONEN WILL DO,
AND EVERYONE IS EQUALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT WHAT IT
MAY TURN OUT TO BE.
AUSTAD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN02511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750407-0016
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751121/aaaaasla.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HELSINKI 2485
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTIST PARTIES REJECT MIETTUNEN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
TAGS: PINT, FI, (MIETTUNEN, MARTTI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006